(b) whether Government has taken any steps for development of MSMEs in the State during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details and the achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As per the Quick Results of Fourth All India Census of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with the reference year of 2006-07, the number of micro, small and medium enterprises both registered and unregistered existing in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 31.03.2007 (latest available) was estimated to be 25,95,127.

(b) and (c) To facilitate the promotion and development of MSMEs, in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu, the Government announced a policy package for stepping up credit to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on 10th August, 2005 which envisages public sector banks to fix their own targets for funding SMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20 per cent year-on-year growth in credit to SME sector. The Government has also announced in February, 2007 a 'Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises' with an objective to provide support in areas of credit, technology upgradation, marketing, infrastructure, etc. Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, which has since corne into force from 2nd October, 2006. The Government is also implementing various schemes/programmes relating to credit, inftastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial/ skill development, etc., for assisting the MSME sector in meeting the challenges. Some of the major schemes/ programmes being implemented are Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Performance and Credit Rating Scheme, Cluster Development Programme, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme and Market Development Assistance Scheme.

The number of enterprises in the sector and employment generated has increased from 787965 and 2018137 in 2001-02 to 2595127 and 6280872 in 2006-07 (latest available) respectively in the State of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, gross output in registered units has gone up from Rs.13,943 crore in 2001-02 to Rs.70546 crore in 2006-07.

Development of Surat-Hazira rail line

3352. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to slate:

(a) whether the review committee set up by Government of Gujarat has submitted its report for the development work of Surat-Hazira railway line;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) by when the work would be started on this line by the Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

South-Asian train service

3353. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Ministry of Pakistan has technically approved an Indian proposal to launch South-Asian train service linking Bangladesh, India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan Government has conveyed their approval for further evaluation;

(c) if so, whether all the Governments have given their approval;

(d) if so, whether her Ministry's proposal of Dhaka- Delhi- Lahore train is viable in all respects;

(e) whether services could be extended to Karachi or Islamabad if need arises; and

(f) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (f) At the third meeting of SAARC Inter-Governmental Group on Transport held on 24th July 2009 at Colombo, India circulated a Concept Paper on running of a demonstration container train from Bangladesh to Pakistan *via* India and Nepal. The possible corridor for running the demonstration train mentioned in the Paper was Chittagong Port/Dhaka (Bangladesh)-Katihar (India)- Birgunj (Nepal) - Lahore (Pakistan). The meeting noted the proposal and the Member States were to consider this proposal and offer their comments within three months.

This position was approved in the second meeting of SAARC Transport Ministers held on the next day *i.e.* 25th July 2009. All the Member States, including Pakistan and Bangladesh have agreed to evaluate the Concept Paper circulated by India. However, comments from the Member States have not been received. Any further decision on the proposal including extension to other points can be taken only after the Concept Paper is first discussed and agreed among the member countries.

Plan for mobilization of financial resources

3354. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to put in use the surplus railway land to raise additional financial resources;

(b) if so, whether there is any policy firmed up to that end;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, without a policy how can her Ministry goes for such utilization;